

Glenolden, PA - On Saturday, November 22, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA – 07) participated in the Darby Area NAACP Unit #2258, Annual Freedom Fund Awards Luncheon. Congressman Sestak presented Congressional Citations to Councilwoman Faith-Price Thomas, Dr. Linda M. Stewart, Minister Yolanda E. Johnson, Reverend Alberta Jones, and Mayor Jacqueline B. Mosley for their selection by the NAACP for outstanding devotion to Community Service. In his address, the Congressman spoke about the NAACP's invaluable efforts to improve the lives of millions of Americans since its founding in 1909, and about the importance of the contributions made by the women recognized at the event. —

"It was a privilege to be here today to publicly honor such accomplished," said Congressman Sestak. "It is important to recognize the contributions these individuals, have made to our community. They have dedicated their lives to helping others, and in doing so serve as role models. I urge everyone to take away from this event the fact that we can all make a difference in our own way."

The National Association for the Advancement of Color People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its mission is "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination." Today, the NAACP lobbies Congress daily, works to increase voter registration, and fights against discrimination in employment, housing, education, criminal justice, and health. The local Darby unit, which serves the communities of Darby, Sharon Hill, Folcroft, Collingdale and Colwyn, holds the Annual Freedom Fund Award Ceremony to honor local unsung heroes.

This year, the organization focused on the recognition of 5 exceptional women for their religious and civic commitment to their communities. Congressman Sestak cited Dr. Linda M. Stewart for her efforts to mentor and encourage many young women to pursue careers in the field of cosmetology. In addition, Dr. Stewart was recently elected as President of the Stewards Board of Mount Zion CME Church of Darby Township.

Minister Yolanda E. Johnson was recognized by the Congressman for her devotion to community outreach through her ministry. Her credentials include teaching young missionaries for fifteen years, developing a Youth club, sending missionaries to prisons, participating in civic and social organizations such as L.O.V.E. (Learning Our Values Early) and The Baptist

Ministers' Wives and Widows, and founding the Disgrace to Grace Ministry.

Congressman Sestak also honored Mayor Jacqueline B. Mosley, the first African-American and first female Mayor of Yeadon Borough since its incorporation 106 years ago, for her service as an educator, church member, and public servant. She taught in the Philadelphia School System for 39 years before retiring and has dedicated countless hours to volunteering for her church, Union Memorial United Methodist Church. She serves on several of her church's committees and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees of Yeadon Public Library and a Board member of Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital.

Reverend Alberta Jones was presented with a Congressional Citation for her tireless dedication to her church, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was also a member of Philadelphia Conference Women in Ministry and a teacher in the Philadelphia public school system. She is currently employed by the Department of Defense as a Supervisor in Acquisition Logistics at the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia.

Councilwoman Faith-Price, founder of Conversation's Catering, was also honored by the Congressman for her outstanding level of community service. Councilwoman Thomas dedicates her time to public service. She served on the Sharon Hill Borough Council for two years and has been the Sharon Hill Home and School President for four years. She has also served as the Chairperson for Sharon Hill Zoning Board and Planning Commission. She also sits on the Good Neighbor Advisory Board and is employed by Penn State as the Nutrition Education Advisor, where she teaches nutrition to students in Delaware County schools.

In addition to the Award presentation, Congressman Sestak recognized the work that President Sheila A. Carter has done for the organization and the communities in which it serves. He also congratulated President Carter for her receipt of Lifetime Membership with the NAACP and looks forward to working with President Carter and the NAACP, along with other community organizations, to hold on-going discussions on the tough issues facing both of their constituencies.

In particular, the Congressman stressed the importance of working together in light of the economic challenges facing our nation. "As we face our most pressing economic crisis since World War II, it is critical for all of our futures that we take the efforts of these women and the NAACP as an example of how to improve our communities. We must look past differences and take a strong, bi-partisan approach to solving the problems that confront us. I will continue to meet with community leaders and elected officials in order to effect the change that must be made."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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